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35.C13538

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
TAKAHIRO MATSUURA, ET AL.)	Examiner: Unassigned
Application No.: 09/317,844)	Group Art Unit: 2713
Filed: May 25, 1999)	
For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD)	
AND APPARATUS AND)	
RECORDING MEDIUM)	

December 7, 2000

RECEIVED
DEC 11 2000
Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

FOREIGN PATENTS

<u>PATENT NO.</u>	<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>PUBLICATION DATE</u>
0 706 285 A2	Europe	April 10, 1996
0 660 589 A2	Europe	June 28, 1995
0 812 104 A2	Europe	December 10, 1997

The above-listed documents were cited in an official communication from the European Patent Office in connection with a corresponding European patent application. A copy of a Search Report indicating how those references are deemed material to the European patent application also is enclosed as an English language statement of relevance for the Examiner's consideration.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Each item of information in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Statement.

FEE STATEMENT

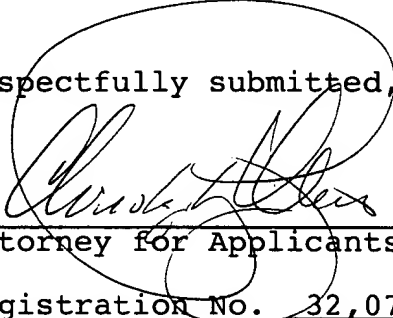
Since this paper is being submitted within three (3) months of the mailing date of the communication from the European Patent Office, and prior to the mailing of a first Official Action on the merits, Applicants believe that no fee is necessitated by this paper. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee necessitated by this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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